

**David Eustace
(HON) DR OF ARTS**

- 1961 Born on the 23rd November, Edinburgh. Two days later he was adopted by James and Susan Eustace and brought up in 43 Greenside Street in the East End of Glasgow. His father worked as a draftsman for a shipping yard on the Clyde before being made redundant in the 70's. At this time, Glasgow was going through huge social and economic changes and a radical urban redevelopment. The East End was historically a tough, working-class environment; often plagued by poverty, a poor health record and tensions often leading to violence. However, at the same time, it was a place of tight social bonds, lifelong friendships and incredible humour.
- 1965-72 Carntyne Primary School, Glasgow
- 1972-77 Smithycroft Secondary School, Glasgow. David was considered a bright student but due to his then unidentified dyslexia, found written work challenging. He left school at 16 with an art qualification.
- 1977-79 Naturally sociable, David worked in a variety of jobs in and around Glasgow including Lumley's Sports Shop, a bingo hall and the infamous 'Barras' market. He tapped into a diverse street network of people from different backgrounds and trades.
- 1979-83 David joined the Royal Navy Reserve and was assigned to HMS Hodgeston (M1146).
- 1983-88 He joined HMP Barlinnie and served as a Prison Officer for five years. He was working at the prison when the infamous Barlinnie riots took place in 1987.
- 1984 Aged 27, he borrowed a camera from a friend and was immediately fascinated with the medium.
- 1987 10th October, David married Deirdre Margaret MacDonald Wood. David joined the Knightswood Camera Club and promptly won Best Novice Photographer. A guest speaker encouraged David to consider working in photography. David set up a small dark room in his father's house and when not working, he was in the dark room, printing and experimenting day and night. He soon after joined the Glasgow Photography Group (which became the foundations for Street Level Photoworks). David sought advice from the staff at the Glasgow College of Building and Printing with regards to studying photography. Impressed with his portfolio, they recognised his greater potential and David was encouraged to apply for the degree course at Napier University in Edinburgh. He was immediately accepted as a mature student.
- 1988 David travelled daily to Edinburgh and completely immersed himself in photography. He focused particular attention on the printing process in conjunction with mastering and manipulating light. He drew upon his past experience for subject matter, and with his growing technical knowledge he was able to express his ideas with increasing clarity and vision. 1990 In his final year at Napier, David was awarded the Agfa Photography student bursary and was invited as one of only two students, to represent the UK at the International Photo Symposium, Poznan, Poland. David was also spending time in London making essential contacts and connections, leaving his portfolio with various magazines. His work was quickly recognised as being special.
- 1991 David graduated from Edinburgh Napier University with distinction. In his final year at Edinburgh Napier, he contacted the eminent Scots born photographer Albert Watson in New York and worked as his assistant for a week. Within months of leaving University he

was already working for *GQ* and *ES* magazines, fulfilling four covers for *GQ* by the end of the following year. Portrait commissions came in thick and fast. David had a particular ability to connect with his subjects and the resulting images astonished the publishing world, which in turn, led to more work.

- 1991-92 Beyond commissions, personal projects included *The Cowboys* and *The Buskers*. *The Cowboys* is an insight into Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry (The Country & Western Club); David got to know many of the characters and they agreed to sit for him. This project was later purchased and published by *The Sunday Telegraph* (1995). Beyond *The Cowboys*, David wanted to capture the street entertainers who regularly performed in and around Glasgow city centre. This project became known as *The Buskers*, and was shot in a deserted warehouse on Washington Street where David had plastered and painted the walls to get the backdrop he wanted.
- 1992 9th October, birth of daughter, Rachael.
David was included in *GQ*'s masthead as contributing photographer. As his reputation grew, his client list expanded and he gained regular work from *Tatler*, *Vogue*, *Sunday Times Magazine*, *Telegraph Magazine* and many more.
- 1993 *The Buskers* was purchased and published by *The Observer Magazine*. The portfolio of works *Beirut and Beyond* commenced.
- 1994 Glasgow Museums (Julian Spalding) acquired *The Buskers* (12 images) for their permanent collection.
- 1995 Thirty-three images were selected from the unfinished *Beirut and Beyond* portfolio and featured in the main exhibition at The Groningen International Photography Festival in the Netherlands. *Beirut and Beyond* was finally completed.
- 1996 Mike Prince from Scottish Television commissioned a 30-minute documentary programme *David Eustace & His Work* which profiled David's career to date.
- 1997 David curated *EGO* at MNS Gallery, Glasgow, which was sponsored by Kodak & Land Rover. The exhibition consisted of 75 commissioned and non-commissioned portraits, including actors, musicians and other known faces.
David was awarded 'Artist' Membership at The Glasgow Art Club; the first photographer member.
- 1998 Eleanor Yule from the BBC commissioned a 30 minute documentary on the *EGO* exhibition. *EGO* toured to 'The Gallery in Cork Street', London. (Sponsored by Deutsche Bank/Morgan Grenfell) Deutsche Bank acquired 14 works from *EGO* for their private collection.
With regular work coming in from the US, David re-established contact with Albert Watson whose wife Elizabeth would eventually become his agent (Elizabeth Watson Inc.). This working relationship lasted several years. From this point on David worked extensively between Scotland and the US.
- 1999 David commenced work for Scottish Television to create a new concept for their channel *idents*. He was also commissioned by the Scottish Office to produce both photographic stills and a TV commercial for the anti-domestic abuse advertising campaign *Behind Closed Doors*.
- 2000 Solo exhibition at The Glasgow Art Club opened by presenter Kirsty Wark.

- 2001 COG magazine asked David to act as photography director.
- 2002 Eighteen images were submitted as part of the group show *Travel* at DGP Gallery, Glasgow.
- 2002 David continued to work commercially in both the UK and US creating global campaigns including all the advertising imagery used to promote Paramount Pictures now classic movie *School of Rock*, starring Jack Black.
- 2003-09 The *Saturday Herald Magazine* (editor: Kathleen Morgan) approached David to act as joint fashion editor and photographer, which gave him complete creative control and involved him working alongside Kelly Cooper Barr producing and photographing 50 fashion stories a year; each spread consisted of six pages of images.
- 2004 The success of the *Saturday Herald Magazine* led to the publication being voted 'UK Supplement Magazine of the Year' on more than one occasion. Newsquest group commissioned David to rebrand *The Herald/Times* newspaper group. This involved the overall appearance and direction of the television and stills campaign.
- 2005 David won 'Most Influential Style Photographer' at the Scottish Style awards.
- 2006-07 David worked for Coca Cola to create a suite of photographs, which included travelling through USA, Brazil, France, Russia and China.
 "In 2006 I was asked to do a 'corporate responsibility report' for The Coca Cola company and it involved travelling from NYC to Atlanta, then on to Rocinha in Rio de Janeiro... then over to Paris before heading to The Hermitage in St Petersburg. We headed down to Moscow before flying out to Beijing and onto the Gobi desert... all in the space of three weeks. With such a schedule and so many potential chances for film to get ruined, x-rayed or even lost I took the decision to work in digital for the first time and I've never used film since – it's both the same to me; a means to record, the discipline is the difference."
- 2007 The designer and protégé of Milton Glaser, Katja Maas, commissioned David to capture the vision of their industrial corporation US Powergen. He was given complete freedom to create a body of work that sought out a greater statement and understanding of the human condition found in this industrial complex.
 At home in Glasgow, a fire destroyed many of David's early portraits and photographs.
- 2008 David was one of 11 photographers chosen to capture the character of America for USA Network / NBC Universal. The main project was called *The Character Project* and David's project was called *Highway 50*, and for this he drove from San Francisco to Ocean City, Maryland over 3400 miles and created 50 portraits juxtaposed against 50 different landscapes. The project was launched in The Stephen Weiss Studio in New York in March 2009 and toured to a further five US cities ending in Los Angeles. The NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw stated that David's contribution to this project moved him so much that he decided to follow the same route with a film crew to document the first year of the Obama administration. *Highway 50* was produced and published by Chronicle. David's portfolio was the lead with the largest amount of selected images, one of which was chosen for the cover. David won 'Communicator of the Year' award at the Scottish Fashion Awards.
- 2009 Creative Director Trevor Lunn from Anthropologie, commissioned David to launch the company's art based multimedia site. This culminated in the portfolio *In Search of Eustace*. It was an open brief and once again David was given complete freedom to offer

and create a personal body of work. He chose to create a document along with his 16 year old daughter, Rachael, focusing on a father and daughter's relationship. They drove over 3000 miles from Los Angeles to the small town south of Dallas, Texas called Eustace. *In Search of Eustace* was exhibited in both the UK and the US. Grant Scott, then editor of *Professional Photographer*, described the body of work as 'genius'. David participated in a group show at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh called *As Others See Us*. David was paired up with the artist and sculptor Alex Main (1940-2010).

- 2010-11 The success of *In Search of Eustace* prompts Anthropologie to approach David with another open brief to simply 'do something close to your heart'. This resulted in the portfolio *Highland Heart* where David returned to Scotland and made a series of magical and mysterious landscapes of the Scottish Highlands and Islands. David produced the *Greene Street Portfolio* in New York.
- 2011 David was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Arts from Edinburgh Napier University. The Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, acquired three portraits of the artist and playwright John Byrne for their permanent collection.
- 2011 Panasonic based their UK cinema and television campaign around David and his work. Filmed in Yosemite National Park, this project saw David's work increase sales for the Lumix camera. Work commenced for The Weir Group at their bases in Brazil, Chile and North America. The project marked the 175th anniversary of the company and David was commissioned to create an artist's impression of the company's work.
- 2012 Photographed the *Highland Heart* portfolio in the Western Highlands and Islands.
- 2013 *Highland Heart* was showcased at Hudson's Studio in New York as the main evening event of the Scotland Week celebrations and was opened by Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond. The exhibition included 42 large scale works. David begins work on an on-going portrait project titled *Friends & Artists*.
- 2014 David's first major mid-career retrospective publication was released, *I Write to Tell You of a Baby Boy Born Only Yesterday...* by Clearview Books. David and Deirdre moved from Glasgow to Edinburgh.
- 2015 David Eustace *Selected Works*, The Scottish Gallery, and launch of *I Write to Tell You*. This was the first major photography exhibition in The Gallery's 173 year history. David was appointed Chancellor of Edinburgh Napier University in August, a position he will hold for 5 years